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A Business Letter of Anu-šar-uṣur.—By FREDERICK A. VANDERBURGH, of Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

This was purchased as a tablet from Senkereh, the present seat of ancient Larsa. Judging from the character of the writing and the nature of the subject-matter, it may be said that it was probably written later than the time of Nabonidus, who, as well as Nebuchadnezzar, had rebuilt the Sun-god temple of this one-time capital city.

The writer of this letter, Anu-šar-uṣur, seems to be an officer of a body of men who may be doing military service. His communication is addressed to his commissariat, consisting of the Šatam and Nabu-ah-iddin. Food supplies, which are to come from a distance by boat for 200 men, are to be provided at an expense of six mina of silver per month. Provisions must also be secured to avert the impending famine. The proposed commission must be entrusted to a certain experienced officer and the transport by boat to the command of a second officer. These orders must be executed on the eleventh of Nisan and efficiently carried out to the end.

Description of the tablet: a well preserved brown baked clay tablet; length 6½ centimeters; breadth 3¼ centimeters; thickness 1½ centimeters; 36 lines, 15 on the obverse, 15 on the reverse, 2 on the lower edge, 3 on the upper edge, and 1 on the right edge.

Duppi m i lu A-nu-šar-uṣur a-na
Letter from Anu-šar-uṣur unto
amša-tam u m i lu Nabu-ah-iddin
the Šatam and Nabu-ah-iddin
ah^{pl}-e-a i lu Bēl u i lu Nabu
my brothers. May Bēl and Nebo
šu-lum u balātu ša ah^{pl}-e-a
for the peace and life of my brothers
5 *lik-bu-u a-na-ku a-mur*
speak. I, for sooth,
ina ni-is-hi at-ṭi-bi
with the copy of the contract am satisfied,
u ana sâb-e-a ina pa-ni-ku-nu
and for my workmen, who are under your supervision,

ina kurummati-ia im-ma-il-li
 with my food supplies it is to be filled.
išt-en ^amardu wa-kal-tum
 One steward

10 *ina muḥ-hi-šu pi-ki-da-a-an*
 for this do ye appoint.
šeatum u suluppi-ia
 My corn and dates
ma-la ina pa-ni-šu lis-ṣa-de
 for as many as there are before him, let him provide.
ina ⁱelippi a-na pu-u-tum
 In a ship according to the agreement
lu-še-bi-la ul-tu
 let him bring them. After

15 *arb^uDu'uzi VI ma-na kaspi*
 the month of Tammuz 6 mina of silver
a-na kurummati^{b1}
 for the food
ša CC ^amṣâbê^{b1}
 of 200 workmen
tu-ul-te-bi-la-a-an
 ye shall bring.
a-na ša-a-šu i-kul-lu-u'
 With this it is to cease.

20 *en-na VI ma-na kaspi*
 Behold 6 mina of silver
pi-i šammi aš-bi-la-nim-ma
 for the vegetable food I have brought,
^amṣâbê^{b1} aš-bu ma-a-ta
 that the workmen who dwell in the land
la i-mu-tu-u'
 may not die.
lib-bu-u ša ^amṣâbê^{b1}
 Among these workmen

25 *a-ga-a u dul-lu a-ga-a*
 and for that task,
la-at-tu-ku-nu
 there is your servant,
šu-u ^amṣâbê^{b1}
 the master of the workmen,



ša ta-bu-ka-a'
 whom ye shall take with you.
 a-na ^am'rabi še-ni-e
 To the second overseer
 30 tir-ša-a' elippi an-tim
 ye shall entrust that ship,
 ša i-na muh-hi mu-du
 he being expert in such matters.
 liš-ni-din na-bi-e še du id
 May he give orders for the grain (to go forward)
 a-na umi XI^{kam} arbu Nisannu
 on the 11th day of the month of Nisan
 a-na dul-lu ša-du-nu
 for the work.
 35 kap-du harrânâⁱⁱ a-na šêpâⁱⁱ-šu-nu
 Do ye a well ordered road for their feet
 šu-kun-na-a'
 prepare.

This tablet, which is the property of the writer, is clearly from the archives of Warka, which has never been satisfactorily excavated, the tablet having found its way to this country, like many others, by means of Arab traders. Hardly any other place in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates has produced a tablet with a name in which Anu plays a part. But in the tablets coming from Warka personal names with Anu as a component are not unusual. Indeed some tablets, aside from this, known to be from Warka have this very name Anu-šar-uṣur. The influence of the Anu worship, which was founded in the days of Sumerian supremacy in the temple E-ana built by Ur-gur and often rebuilt in the city of Erech, could scarcely have come to an end with the close of the Neo-Babylonian period to which our tablet doubtless belongs. The latest tests at Wuswas show that the building E-ana was in use during the Seleucid reign.

P. S. Since the preparation of this paper it has been discovered, as shown by a tablet now in the Museum of Yale University, that Anu-šar-uṣur was the overseer of the temple E-ana in Warka (^amKi-i-pi ša E-ana) in the seventh year of the reign of Cyrus.